

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed December 31, 2007, claims 1, 3, and 6 – 8 were rejected and claims 2, 4, and 5 were objected to. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1, canceled claim 2, and added new claims 9 – 13. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims, the added claims, and the below-provided remarks.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action states that the listing of references in the Search Report is not considered to be an information disclosure statement (IDS) complying with 37 CFR 1.98. Applicants provide herewith an IDS complying with 37 CFR 1.98.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action also suggests that section headings be added to the specification, according to the guidelines set forth in the MPEP. Applicants note that the suggested section headings are not required and, hence, Applicants respectfully decline to amend the specification to include the indicated section headings.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's review of and determination that claims 2, 4, and 5 recite allowable subject matter. In particular, the Office Action states that claims 2, 4, and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled. In view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicants assert that claim 1 is in an allowable condition. Additionally, Applicants assert that dependent claims 3 – 8 are allowable at least based on an allowable base claim.

New claim 9 includes all of the limitations of claims 1 and 4 as originally filed. Because new claim 9 includes all of the limitations of claims 1 and 4, Applicants assert that new claim 9 is in an allowable condition. Claims 10 – 13 are copies of claims 5 – 8,

respectively, as originally filed. Claims 10 – 13 are dependent on new claim 9. Applicants assert that dependent claims 10 – 13 are allowable at least based on an allowable claim 9.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

/mark a. wilson/

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